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U.S. PLANES SHOT DOWN
IN NORTH VIET NAM

Two Crucial Issues

PRESIDENT Ho Chi Minh's appeal on the occasion of July 20 reaffirmed in clearest terms the Vietnamese people's position regarding the two crucial issues of discussion within the Viet Nam settlement: the withdrawal of American troops and the holding of general elections in South Viet Nam.

Everybody knows how obtuse the ruling circles in Washington are on both subjects. Prompted by their desire to cling to South Viet Nam at any price, they have been attempting to draw all U.S. and satellite troops from there, visibly trying to touch the chauvinistic string of the American people. Henry Cabot Lodge declared at the 2nd session of the Paris Conference that such a withdrawal would be tantamount to a "co-pitulation". So, after having committed an armed aggression against South Viet Nam and occupied militarily her territories, the Americans are exacting a price for the cessation of such an aggression and occupation, and this price is precisely the permission given to them to impose their neocolonialism in South Viet Nam by other political methods.

To isolate U.S. public opinion which has been pressuring for the repatriation of the GIs, President Nixon recently opened a safety-valve by ordering that 35,000 U.S. troops be pulled out, which is in essence a "victory". President Ho Chi Minh put it in his appeal. This move, so loudly ballyhooed by Washington's propaganda machine, was also aimed at making people believe that the U.S. plan to "Vietnamize" the war was in

a groove. But nobody was taken in; if so many elite U.S. divisions had been badly trounced in South Viet Nam, how could puppet soldiers with no morale assume their combat burden?

President Ho Chi Minh has made unequivocally clear to Vietnamese people firmly demand the withdrawal of all U.S. and satellite troops, not the withdrawal of only 25,000 or 250,000 or 500,000 men, but a total, complete, unconditional withdrawal.

TURNING to the question of future general elections in South Viet Nam, President Ho Chi Minh pointed out in his appeal: "After the total withdrawal of the U.S. and satellite troops and the complete liberation of South Viet Nam from foreign invasion, the Provisional Coalition Government, as provided for in the (NFL-Ed.) ten-point overall solution, will organize free and democratic general elections to enable the South Vietnamese people to determine themselves their own political regime, elect a constituent assembly, work out a Constitution and set up a national popular government of South Viet Nam, without any foreign country being allowed to interfere". And he stressed: "So long as U.S. troops and the puppet administration remain in existence in South Viet Nam, real free and democratic general elections will be absolutely impossible."

(Continued page 2)

ALWAYS ON THE LOOK OUT FOR ENEMY PLANES!
(Young girls of Hanoi N. factory self-defence unit)



South Viet Nam

Repeated PLAF Attacks in Saigon Periphery, South of DMZ and Western High Plateaux.

- PLAF onset on My Tho town, on base of US Division 9 and on 6 sub-sectors: 700 enemy troops put out of action.
- Enemy convoy on Highway No 13 ambushed: 62 vehicles destroyed, 200 GI casualties.
- Many columns of US Airborne Division 101 intercepted at A Bia (Northwest): 280 GIs killed, 11 aircraft downed.
- A Civil guard company wiped out southwest of Da Lat, 30 military vehicles wrecked on Road No 19 (East of Pleiku).

Page 4

- In "De-Americanizing" the War, Washington Admits U.S. Failure in South Viet Nam.

Page 5

- South Viet Nam and the Anniversary of the Signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements

Washington Admits U.S. Failure in South Viet Nam

(Concluded)

FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION OUT OF STEAM IN WESTERN HIGHLANDS

THIS division was created from scratch to respond to Westmoreland's S.O.S. following the dismal failure of his first strategic air strike "counter-offensive". Thrown into the Viet Nam theatre in Aug. 1966, it experienced, 3 months later, its first disaster: a whole regiment was wiped out on Nov. 12 in the So Thay valley, West of Pleiku, Western Highlands.

The next campaign did not bring any improvement to the situation, and thousands of GIs were put out of action, especially in the battles of Nov. 3, 1967 at Dien, and of Aug. 7, Nov. 17 and Dec. 11, 1967 in the Da To area.

During the 1968 PLAF "Tet" offensive, under fire in the middle of its operations stretching from Lang Muoi Thon to Kontum, the 4th Infantry lost 3,100 men killed or wounded in the first week alone. Convinced in time to "throw the book" at the unit, to get targets for the deadly shooting by Liberation gunners, its "sweep" efforts to ease adverse pressure produced no better results. As a matter of fact, General Kinnard, in March 1968 early April 1969, the 1st Brigade had to withdraw, exhausted, from the outer belt, and the narrow area controlled by the U.S.-puppets was the province kept shrinking, as the U.S. press put it, like a piece of shagreen.

Took place even upon its bases and abandoning the base to area, North of Kontum, the 4th Infantry is lending itself to the "de-Americanization of the war" experiment by turning over the Plei Can-Ben Het area to the puppet troops.

8TH INFANTRY DIVISION BUGGED DOWN IN THE MEKONG ALLUVIUMS

THE Mekong Delta, South Viet Nam's biggest reservoir of man-power and wealth, has always been one of the areas the control of which is considered by the U.S.-puppets to be decisive for the war issue. As early as 1965, Westmoreland would have committed one of his marine divisions to this area if the latter were not lured into the vast trap laid for them by the 7th parallel. With an eye to the strategic objective, this had undergone special training in Kansas so that, according to the U.S. press, each combat section of the division was able to move swiftly and noiselessly in the brushwood, in a maze of canals and rivers. Subsequently, the 8th Infantry, a veteran of the Normandy landing during World War II, was shipped to the war zone in the Mi-

kong delta where it was based early in 1967.

Hardly had it been installed in Long An province, about 30 km south of Saigon, when it faced the dismal failure of its first "strategic air strike" "counter-offensive". Thrown into the Viet Nam theatre in Aug. 1966, it experienced, 3 months later, its first disaster: a whole regiment was wiped out on Nov. 12 in the So Thay valley, West of Pleiku, Western Highlands.

In course of time, the 8th Infantry's fief extended gradually to the southwest, reaching the provinces of My Tho, Ben Tre, Tien Giang, Trang, etc. At the same time, its setbacks also increased and worsened. The Binh Duong base, the Division's HQ, near My Tho, was sustained by an average of 2,000 men per week between Feb. 23 and June 6, 1969. Total U.S. losses in the 30 battles recorded in this period were 2,110 GIs, mostly disabled, 174 tanks and helicopters destroyed, 174 military vehicles burnt or wrecked, 50 heavy cannons and mortars put out of commission, 16 war vessels sunk or damaged, 17 logistic depots burnt, etc...

As far as the PLAF of Ben Tre province is concerned, the river system and tactics applied by the 8th Infantry and Giang River became a real graveyard of U.S. vessels. In the past 17 months this division suffered 18,000 men wiped out, 500 vessels destroyed or sunk on fire and 200 aircraft downed.

It is clear that the 8th Infantry has disappointed the Pentagon East. For this reason, its fate has changed hands 4 times in 2 years and were badly battered and beaten later. But, until the day the HQ's of the 1968 brigades were reduced to rubble and 3 of its airfields (including Chu Lai) heavily pounded.

During the 1969 post-Tet offensive, this division took 5,000 casualties and from May 12 to May 15, 2,000 more GIs were disabled.

In such conditions, to think of pulling out U.S. troops and replacing them with puppet troops is a quick remedy designed to dupe the American and world public. Perhaps those who are responsible for this course of that nevertheless, they know only too well that to maintain their troops in South Viet Nam will only court more serious difficulties. The losses of the GIs's are on the decline, but the number of deserters is increasing at an accelerated rate and are already heavier than those in World War I. The aggressors and their puppets are sinking with their backs to the wall, an irretrievable defensive posture and are fighting now to delay and limit defeat.

On July 30, 1969, the Governor of South Viet Nam in the person of Major General Robert M. Taylor and Generals Westmoreland made a trip to Cam Ranh to welcome to South Viet Nam the 1st Brigade of a division of which they had been, at different periods, direct commanders. It was the 10th Airborne, born 23 years ago, in August 1946.

The origin of this unit, which takes the name of division having fought the U.S. in the 1968 Tet Offensive and deactivated in 1969, goes back to the reorganization of the marines in the First Tactical Air Force.

In April 1967, Westmoreland mustered the 10th Airborne Brigade, the 10th Light Infantry Brigade and the 3rd Brigade of the Tropic Lightning to form the Oregon Task Force and hurl it into the provinces

long delta where it was based early in 1967.

Southwest of Da Nang to support the marines hard pressed since the end of 1966. However, after 7 month's operations, 4,000 GIs of this unit were put out of action.

The 10th Airborne's permanent deployment of a division doing the duty of force of intervention in this sector. The US command raised the Americal Division in Nov. 1967, the Americal Division, the 10th Brigade and 2 other brigades freshly brought in from the U.S. the 10th and the 11th.

In course of time, the 9th Infantry's fief extended gradually to the southwest, reaching the provinces of My Tho, Ben Tre, Tien Giang, Trang, etc. At the same time, its setbacks also increased and worsened. The Binh Duong base, the Division's HQ, near My Tho, was sustained by an average of 2,000 men per week between Feb. 23 and June 6, 1969. Total U.S. losses in the 30 battles recorded in this period were 2,110 GIs, mostly disabled, 174 tanks and helicopters destroyed, 174 military vehicles burnt or wrecked, 50 heavy cannons and mortars put out of commission, 16 war vessels sunk or damaged, 17 logistic depots burnt, etc...

Under the hammering blows of the patriots, this unit has ever since sustained the heaviest losses any U.S. division has ever experienced in South Viet Nam.

In the first 10 days of 1968, the 10th Brigade was bloodied to the bone. On Jan. 11, the 10th offensive: the division's 5,000 casualties had to be made up by the South and paratroop 7th Brigades hurriedly sent to the front. Immediately after this replenishment, it met with a new reverse at Nut Ngang: the 10th and 10th brigades and an armoured regiment, poll a total of 2,000 GIs, were scattered shot down or blasted to pieces on the ground and 33 armoured cars destroyed.

At the flare-up on the night of Aug. 24, 1968, its HQ and those of its 3 brigades came under attack and were badly battered and beaten later. But, until the day the HQ's of the 1968 brigades were reduced to rubble and 3 of its airfields (including Chu Lai) heavily pounded.

During the 1969 post-Tet offensive, this division took 5,000 casualties and from May 12 to May 15, 2,000 more GIs were disabled.

For all their efforts, the U.S. full-strength U.S. divisions and different units equivalent to 2 other divisions have been unable to destroy the 10th Airborne. The losses have increased at an accelerated rate and are already heavier than those in World War I. The aggressors and their puppets are sinking with their backs to the wall, an irretrievable defensive posture and are fighting now to delay and limit defeat.

In such conditions, to think of pulling out U.S. troops and replacing them with puppet troops is a quick remedy designed to dupe the American and world public. Perhaps those who are responsible for this course of that nevertheless, they know only too well that to maintain their troops in South Viet Nam will only court more serious difficulties. The losses of the GIs's are on the decline, but the number of deserters is increasing at an accelerated rate and are already heavier than those in World War I. The aggressors and their puppets are sinking with their backs to the wall, an irretrievable defensive posture and are fighting now to delay and limit defeat.

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long delta where it was based early in 1967.

In Dec. 1967, the division was

brought to full strength by the addition of 2 other brigades and for more than a year afterwards, it was pinned down in the Hue - Da Nang sector, transformed into a 2nd air mobile division.

The fame this unit soon earned has been the target of many political remarks on the part of the Western powers and other "friendly" units. When in April-May 1969, 4,000 GIs of the 10th Airborne sweeping for 4 weeks a valley 77 km west of Da Nang and surrounding areas, one VC UPI philosophically opined that it was but one of its many beatings of the air. Others thought that the 10th Airborne command had chosen this area known to be deserted to conduct the operation.

More "reassuring" still was the A Bia affair, the misfortune of Hamburger Hill termed by Senator Edward Kennedy as "Both senseless and irresponsible".

The fact was that, in the heat of the game, the Americans had sacrificed, between May 12 and May 25 last, 1,800 GIs to occupy for a few days that hill in the A-S'ao Valley southwest of Hué.

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SOUTH VIET NAM AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE 1954 GENEVA AGREEMENTS

"The U.S. must end its war of aggression, withdraw unconditionally all its troops and those of its satellites and let the South Vietnamese people settle their own affairs themselves."

(Statement by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam)

"Resolutely continue the struggle to achieve our people's fundamental objectives — independence, democracy, peace, neutrality, prosperity and ultimate peaceful reunification of the country"

(Statement by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation)

THE South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Vietnamese people reaffirm their complete agreement with the statement issued by the RVSN Provisional Revolutionary Government on the occasion of July 20 this year, which most clearly expounds our people's militant, resolute and clear-cut stand, and goodwill which radiant with the light of justice.

"

"In their desire to turn South Viet Nam into a new-type colony and satellite, with no right to fight until the American quit and the puppets and the partition of Viet Nam, however, the U.S. imperialists in the past fifteen years have been using a puppet regime as an instrument of aggression, and waging a war of the most savage kind in history on the Vietnamese people.

"For the sake of their Fatherland's independence and freedom, the fourteen million heroes South Vietnamese in the past fifteen years have been fighting continuously against the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen. Under the glorious banner of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam have defeated the U.S. 'puppet war' and are foiling the U.S. local war..."

"Faced with complete collapse, the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration is desperately clinging to the U.S. while ruthlessly cracking down upon anyone standing for peace, independence and neutrality, whose advocates include people of various religious communities, intellectuals, students, businessmen, and members of the puppet army and administration. The latter is opposing with tooth and nail the formation of a national coalition government. In so doing, it is bafbling the aspirations of the people of all strata in South Viet Nam for independence, peace and national concord..."

"Due to the obduracy of the U.S. and the Saigon puppet administration, the Paris Conference on Viet Nam has made no progress so far. The Nixon administration must be held entirely responsible for this deadlock.

"The South Vietnamese people cherish peace, which must be based on independence and freedom. If the U.S. stubbornly prolongs the war of aggression in South Viet Nam, the people here will fight on stubbornly, till not a single U.S. aggressor soldier is left. The recent convention of the South Viet Nam Congress of People's Representatives and the establishment of the RVSN Provisional Revolutionary Govern-

"**F**AITHFUL to its political program, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces solemnly declares: 'We approve and support the most righteous struggle of all the strata of the townpeople to recover independence, and the war, discard the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet cabinet and set up a peace cabinet.'

"On the occasion of July 20 this year, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces solemnly declares: 'We approve and support the most righteous struggle of all the strata of the townpeople to recover independence, and the war, discard the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet cabinet and set up a peace cabinet.' The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Vietnamese people themselves are within their right to settle among themselves their own affairs, without foreign interference."

"**F**OR the survival of the nation, for the sake of national independence and sovereignty, let's overthrow the traitorous Thieu-Ky-Huong administration and build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral Viet Nam and progress toward the peaceful reunification of the country"

(Statement by the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces)

In mid July, the PLAF continued to strike at the enemy in 3 provinces, north, northwest and southwest of Saigon, west of Hué, south of the DMZ and in Pleiku and Dalat (Western High Plateaus).

On July 10 and 11, they stormed many enemy positions within and without My Tho town, 6 km southwest of Saigon: the "Open Arms" centre, puppet artillery Battalion 71, the airfield, Binh Duong base, 6 km west of the town. PLAF shells hit HQ of U.S. Division 9, the airfield and port installations; 260 GIs killed or wounded, 3 choppers destroyed, 1 war vessel sunk.

500 adverse troops were put out of action at the "Open Arms" centre, the airfield, base of Artillery Battalion 71 and a number of posts in 6 other sub-sectors. In the two assaults against Tan Hiep sub-sector, 8km north of the town, and the military training centre a toll of 200 enemy troops was exacted.

In Tay Ninh province 8km northwest of Saigon, on July 10 and 11, regional troops attacked the enemy in 13 localities (including two sub-sectors) and a company of the First Cav. at Linh Nhieu, 14 km northeast of the town, inflicting 200 enemy casualties. 3 choppers were blasted out of the skies, 2 war vessels sent to the bottom, a 105 mm cannon destroyed. In the July 11 engagements on the Eastern Van Co river, 8km south of the town, 10 war vessels were sunk or burnt, 100 enemy troops killed.

On July 10, the PLAF also intercepted 2 companies of the First Cav. on Highway No. 13, 50km southwest of Saigon, dislodging 80 GIs. On July 12 on the same road, they engaged an American column,

killing 30 GIs and wrecking 6 tanks.

In an ambush against an enemy convoy on Highway No. 13 on July 13, at 11 am, the PLAF destroyed 62 vehicles (of tanks) out of 73 vehicles, downed 3 air craft, and put out of action 20 American soldiers.

Previously, on July 1, they wiped out 16 military vehicles in a mine attack 2 km north of Hon Quan town.

Military Operations

Summing up, from July 10 to 13 in these 3 provinces, the PLAF put out of action 1,100 enemy troops, blasted 22 military vehicles, brought down 8 choppers, sank or set afire 13 river vessels.

According to additional details given by *Giao Phong* Press Agency regarding the raid on "Palms" camp of U.S. Navy in Saigon 5th District, the self-defense forces in the city disabled 157 Yankees (including many officers) and heavily damaged the facade of the 5-storey building.

On the night of July 18, regional troops in Tra Vinh province, took south southwest of Saigon, stole into the town and killed two men at the "Open Arms" centre and the police station and *Bao An* troops.

On July 19, regional troops in Tra Vinh province, 25km southwest of Saigon, sank three vessels.

In A Bia region, 45km southwest of Hué, on July 10 and 17, the PLAF intercepted an American company of Battalion 1, Brigade 1, and a rescue party, 2 km

southwest of A Bia: 130 GIs killed or wounded, 6 tanks wrecked, 4 choppers downed.

On July 12 and 14, they struck at the columns of Battalion 1 of Regiment 3, and Battalion 1 of Regiment 1, U.S. Airborne Division 10, inflicting 150 casualties on the enemy and knocking out of the skies 7 choppers. From July 2 to 17, in the A Bia area, the enemy, continually harassed by the PLAF, lost 700 men (mostly GIs)

SAIGON STUDENTS OPPOSE MILITARY TRAINING

T HIEU-KY-HUONG's orders to put students through military training during the summer holidays met with a growing and stiff opposition from university publications.

On July 14, in a sit-in at the Faculty of Pharmacy in which 'MPs' also took part, 1,500 students from various sections of the Saigon University denounced the violation of university autonomy, slighting of students' dignity and militarization of the University by the puppet administration. An "Inter-Faculty Committee for the Defence of Students' Rights" was set up and a petition for cancellation of military training for students during the summer vacation voted.

On the night of July 14, 100 students took part in a protest sit-in at the Faculty of Pharmacy.

The next morning the demonstration went on with an attendance of 2,000. The demonstrators stripped their military uniforms and staged a hunger strike.

In face of the fast growing protest movement, the puppet administration took repressive measures (withdrawal of the deferment certificate from recruits), accompanied by promises to coexist the movement (to permit increase of examination marks for submissive candidates). However, the protest went on from July 16 to 18.

Armed police was sent in to surround the Faculty of Pharmacy, Letters and Sci-

ences. Journalists were denied contacts with the demonstrators and the translation of students' statements into foreign languages was forbidden. Students of the Faculty of Letters were kidnapped by the police.

The reaction of the students was prompt and vigorous: on July 17, they broke into the streets in downtown Saigon while those of the Faculty of Letters went on a hunger strike. At a press conference held by the 'MPs' who had taken part in the sit-in, one of them condemned the puppet administration for "drowning the voice of the students and infringing university autonomy".

In spite of official orders, the Saigon press did not hush up the event and many newspapers reported on the students' protest movement with banner headlines and photos.

On July 19, a student delegation was received by the "Deputy Speaker" of the puppet "Lower House" and given the promise that representations would soon be made to the ruling clique in favour of the students.

On July 20, students of the Buddhist Institute in Saigon and of Da Lat University declared full support to their comrades at Saigon University. The following day, the "Inter-Faculty Committee for the Defence of Students' Rights" announced that another wave of protest would start on July 23, 1969.

to the intelligentsia as "those rascals" and the hooligan Nguyen Cao Ky shook his fist at intellectual personalities demanding peace, independence and neutrality?

These traitors forget or deliberately deny that the intellectual personalities standing for peace, independence and neutrality, maintain close ties with the aged traditions of Vietnamese intelligentsia. In their veins flows the blood of Nguyen Trai and Thu Khoa Huân and during the 9-year anti-French resistance and after, they have had such representatives as Thai Van Lang, Le Quang Vinh, and others, whose dauntlessness was worthy of our forefathers. They forget that among these people whom they called "rascals" and threatened to liquidate, many have remained loyal to the cause of national liberation, while others have returned to collaborate with the enemy for long years, and that a large number of intellectual and civil servants, though compelled to serve in the puppet administration, have kept their allegiance to the native land. So, the true

South Vietnamese Intellectuals in the Common Struggle

(Excerpts from the speech by Professor Nguyen Van Hieu, delegate of the South Viet Nam Radical Socialist Party, at the South Viet Nam Congress of People's Representatives)

As one thinks back along the years, one may say that there have been in the world very few regimes so much hated by the intellectuals as the U.S.-puppet regime in South Viet Nam. Under the dictatorial yoke of Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother, Nhu, intellectuals, like people of other walks of life, were tortured,

jailed, murdered. Worse still they were scorned and insulted. However, for the sake of demagogic, Diem and Nhu put on the cloak of intellectuals and invented deceitful doctrines to serve as ideological basis for their terror and repression. For their part, the present Thieu-Ky-Huang clique have cast off all the big leaf hiding their cruelty and treachery. The traitor Nguyen Van Thieu hurled abuse at the intellectuals using the language he had acquired while serving in the French colonials' "auxiliary troops". Coalby any honest intellectual, including those in the puppet administrative machine, contain his anger when Nguyen Van Thieu referred

(continued page 7)